

THE REHEARSAL Of Observator, &c.

1. A word of Advice to all the Dissenters, except the Presbyterians.
2. And to the Presbyterians, concerning the Ensuing Elections.
3. POPERY at the Bottom. And the Dissenters the Catts-foot still.

From Saturday April the 28th, to Saturday May the 5th 1705

(1.) Country-m. I must now Divide YOUR Legion. I have a word to say to all the Rest of them, except the Presbyterians. These must stand by themselves for a While.

Obs. I like not this. Thou'rt for Dividing US. And WE are now One and All the Sorts of Us, even to the Quakers, against your High Church and Tackers.

Country-m. I doubt not YOU wou'd ALL willingly see the Church Pull'd down. And the Monarchy too. For these support each other. But suppose this Done. YOU cannot be All in the Saddle at once. Which Class of You, do't think wou'd come next in Power?

Obs. The Presbyterians, no Doubt. They were the Mother of US All. They Began and Carry'd in the Blessed Work, in the Reign of K. Char. I. Tho' they were Mump'd in the End, by some of their own Ungriacious Children, upon the same Principles which they had Taught them. But they have Liv'd and Prosper'd since. And are still the TOPPING Party among Us. Supported by their Alliance with the Presbyterian Churches Abroad, but Especially Now with Scotland.

Country-m. What sort of Quarter, what Toleration will the Presbyterians give to the other Sects among YOU, if their Classis come to be again Establish'd?

Obs. That is an Unlucky Question. It brings strange things into our Minds. They Rid all the Rest like Jehu, while they were in the Power. And call'd them as ill Names as they did the Papishes themselves, or the Church of England, which they Hate worse; as more Opposite to them especially as to Principles of Government. Which some body has shew'd in a large Sheet of Paper, with Sampson's Foxes on the Top, call'd Two Sticks made one. Or, The Devil upon Dun. And there is a Book come lately out call'd, The principles of the Dissenters concerning Toleration, wherein they Declare against all Toleration to one Another, in the most violent Terms, Calling one Another, Judas, Korah, and the very Whore of Babylon. And ev'n Worse than the Church, when it was Down. Instead of Toleration, they Hang'd up the poor Quakers in New-England. And they keep them to their Hard-meat now in Scotland, where the Presbyterians Rule. Who Declare all Toleration to the Church, or any other, to be Anti-Christian, and Establishing Iniquity by a Law.

There is no one Sort of our Dissenters but will say, That they had rather be under the Church of England, than under any of the Dissenters, except Themselves. And so they say ALL. And of all the others, they Dread the Presbyterians most, because they have Suffer'd most under Them.

Country-m. Then the Struggling of all the other Dissenters (except the Presbyterians) against the

Church, is only to set up the Presbyterians instead of the Church. And what will they Get by that Bargain?

They pretend to be Afraid of their Toleration Now, tho' they have all the Security for it that is Possible to be given, that is, an Act of Parliament, Back'd with Repeated Assurances from the Throne, and from the House of Commons too. And they are not Afraid of the Lords. To say, That an Act of Parliament may be Repeal'd, is to Reject all the Security that, as I said, is Possible to be Given. No man has other (under God) for his Life, Liberty, or Estate, or Can have. And he that Asks an IMPOSSIBLE Security, 'tis plain has a mind to Quarrel.

But they are Afraid of their Toleration Now, yet wou'd set those up, who, they are Sure, will take it from them! Who are Oblig'd to do it by their Constantly Declar'd Principles, and have Ever done it, when they had the Power.

Let me Add to this, That the most Effectual way they can take to Provoke the Parliament to take away their Toleration, is, to Vote, as they have Generally done, and I am told Intend to do so now again, at the Ensuing Elections, for such Members of Parliament as are least in the Interest of the Church. Which will let the Church see, first, That it is Impossible to Please the Dissenters, by whatever Concessions; And how Firmly forever Granted. And in the Next Place, That while they have Votes for Parliament-Men, the Church can never be Secure; but in Perpetual Hazard of being overturn'd, every new Election of Parliament.

Obs. But at this Rate, if all the Dissenters, except the Presbyterians, shou'd Vote for the Church, then the Church wou'd be always Establish'd. And they wou'd never get Her down.

Country-m. No. Nor ought they ever to Desire it, if they Understood their own Interest. Unless they Prefer Persecution to Toleration.

Some or other must still be Uppermost. And whom shou'd All desire, but Those under whom All live most Easily?

Besides, if the Presbyterians get into the Saddle, the other Dissenters will find Harder work to get Them dispossess'd than to Undermine the Church. Who is not so much upon her Guard, nor apt to Suspect designs against Her. But the Presbyterians are Vigorous, and Watchful, and Indefatigable. They hold the Reins of Discipline STRICT and Severe. As all the other Dissenters have Prov'd. And that they stand not upon Blood, to Secure their Conquests. They never suffer'd such OPEN Attempts against their Constitution, such Revellings, and Persecution of the Tongue, as the Church bears Patiently from Them every Day! They threw Malignants out of their Parliaments, and Modell'd them at Pleasure, without regard to Birth-Rights, or Primitive Constitution. And they made All feel the Weight of their Hand, who durst Manner or

(2.)

(2.) *Obf.* Well then, though you think it the Interest of the other Dissenters to Vote for the Church, yet you Allow that it is the Interest of the Presbyterians to Vote against Her.

Country-m. No. I will not Allow that neither. For if they do not get such a Whigg House of Commons as they desire, they put the Church upon a Necessity of keeping a more Watchful Eye over them, whom she sees Restless for her Destruction. Besides, they cannot hope to get the Queen to Break those Solemn Promises she made to the Church, upon her Accession to the Crown, not only of Supporting and Maintaining it, but to Bestow her Distinguishing Favours upon those who were most Zealous for it; and to take Care, that it shou'd be safely Transmitted to Posterity.

But suppose the Church were Levell'd with the Ground, a Whigg-Parliament will never put the Presbyterians into the Sadale, whom they know to be such Furious Riders. The Whiggs are of no Religion, they are Atheists, or Deists at Best. They have all Churches. But since Some or Other must be set up, they like that Best, where there is least Discipline. And therefore they will not easily Part with the Church of England. But they would Garble and Mould her into a No Church, that is, with No Discipline at all. But to submit themselves to the Rigour of a Presbyterian Classis, their Souls Abhor.

Besides, the Independants, the Ana-Baptists, and even the Quakers, will not give their Heads for the Washing. They will Dispute it with the Presbyterians, as to Number, Wealth, and Interest. And which ever of them shall Prevail all the Rest will have their Horns in their Sides. And they must Rule the Rest with a Rod of Iron, to Secure themselves, as they did Before, in their several Changes.

And the Consequence of this will be what it was before, a Civil War. and Horrid Destruction of Lives, Liberty, and Property, without Prospect of End.

So that if the Love of ones Country, and Posterity can have any Place, amid'st our Un-natural Divisions, no one can wish a Subversion of the Church of England; whose Firm Establishment only can Prevent all these Evils; And give Security and Toleration to the Dissenters in General, as to all things for which they can, any way, Pretend Conscience. With which since they are not Content, it is Plain that they Seek some thing Else!

Therefore, whoever Vote not, at the Ensuing Elections, for such Members as are most Intirely in the Interests of the Church of England, do all that is in their Power (whether themselves know it, or not) to bring these Nations into Confusion. And the End will be Popery.

(3.) *Obf.* Now thou Mazes me. What! Do'st think, that either Whiggs or Dissenters will bring in Popery?

Country-m. I do not believe the Generality of them Intend it. But they may be Gull'd, as they were before. And made Tools of, as before, to Pull down the Church of England. And when That is Gone, the Bulwark against Popery is Gone. The Dissenters have no Foundation of a Church. They will Break into a Thousand Divisions among themselves. Every Man, Woman, and Child will be setting up a New Religion of their own. The Popish Emissaries will come and Preach among them, and Blow into their Heads all the Old Exploded HERESIES, which they will Suck in as it were Inspiration. This was the Case of Forty-One Times, when there were above Threescore different Religions, at one Time in England, whose Names you may see in

Hæresiology and Gangrand, Wrote in Times.

In that Distraction, several Families of the Nobility and Gentry (besides many Others not then in Notice of) seeing no Face of a Church left in England, went over to the Church of Rome; and many of them have not return'd to this day.

And the Prospect there is of the like coming again may be one Reason of that strange Run towards Popery, which has been observable of late years in England.

But it is not only in the Consequence, but it has been always in the Operation and Design to introduce Popery, whenever the Dissenters were Rais'd up against the Church of England. It is well know'd that the Cardinals Richelieu and Mazaréen Fomented the Rebellion against King Charles I. sent into Scotland the Solemn League and Covenant, drawn Exactly after the Model of the Holy League in France. And assisted these Dissenters all they cou'd against the Church of England; And by Them, at last, Broke it to Pieces. And that these Good Protestant Whiggs and Dissenters Crav'd Aid of the French King against King Charles I. After the Restoration King Charles II. set up the Dissenters in the Year 1672. And we all know now with what Design.

This was the Ruine of his Unfortunate Brother, King James II. what Favours he shew'd to the Papists, and Magdelen College, were but Handlets taken up against him afterwards. But when he began to Play the Dissenters against the Church, his Enemies against his Friends; and in the Fourth, year of his Reign, made an Alteration in the Licencencies, and Commissions of the Peace, and put in Whiggs and Dissenters, THEN, he lost the Hearts of the Church of England. Then it was he found in his Slipper, one Morning as he Rose, these Verses.

The Hearts of all thy Friends are Lost and Gont,
Wondering they Stand and Gaze about thy Throne,
Scarcely believing Thee the Martyr's Son,
Those whom thou Favou'st Merit not thy Praise,
To their own Ends they Sacrifice thy Ease,
And will in Sorrow make Thee End thy Days.

The Dissenters were made the Cats-foot then, and always will be, when there is any Design against the Church of England. And that there are Designing Men among us, no body will doubt. Because all Complain of it, though they know not where to Fix it. But Time will Discover it.

Upon the whole, to set up the Dissenters against the Church, to keep out Popery; is like making Holes in your Dykes, to keep out the Sea. The Dissenters may (if Encourag'd) Break the Church. And then they will Dash one another to Pieces, till the Nation is made a Prey, first to Atheism, and then to Popery. The Prevention of which depends in a great Measure, Under GOD, upon the Ensuing Elections, that true Friends to the Church, and to the Crown be Chosen. And none that lie under any Suspicion, by their Principles or otherwise, to hold Correspondence with, or be of the Party, of the Presbyterians in Scotland, now Armed and obtain'd by a Law.

If the English Dissenters have no Evil Design, I have given Demonstration, that it is the True Real Interest of them all, as well Presbyterians, as others, to Endeavour the Preservation, and seek the Peace of the Church of England.

But if they set them selves up against her in the Ensuing Elections, it is as Plain a Demonstration what they wou'd beat. And if the Zeal of the Church be not Equal to Preserve, as theirs to Destroy,

ACTUM EST—